

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

## Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

### Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Severe Weather Event 26 to 28 April 2011

SITUATION REPORT #5

30 April 2011 0900hrs

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#### SUMMARY

An outbreak of severe thunderstorms with damaging winds, large hail, and periods of heavy rainfall impacted the Commonwealth during the late afternoon and evening hours on Wednesday, 27 April 2011 and Thursday, 28 April 2011. Governor Bob McDonnell declared a state of emergency on 28 April in response to this event authorizing state agencies to assist local governments responding to the impact of possible tornadoes. **On Friday, 29 April 2011 Governor Bob McDonnell requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance for Halifax and Washington counties. The request also included statewide hazard mitigation.**

To date, the National Weather Service has confirmed **12 tornadoes**; one (EF3) in Washington County; one (EF2) in Smyth County; **one (EF2) in Halifax County; one (EF2) Rockingham/Shenandoah Counties; one (EF1) in Keezletown area Rockingham County; one (EF1) in Linville area Rockingham County;** one (EF1) in Caroline County; one (EF1) in Goochland/Hanover County; one (EF1) in Prince Edward/Cumberland Counties; **one (EF1) in Churchville area of Augusta County; one (EF0) in Shenandoah/Frederick Counties; and one (EF0) in Nokesville area Prince William County.** National Weather Service forecast offices are still working to confirm additional tornadoes.

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION

##### Protective Actions

Local Emergencies Declared (4):

- Halifax County on 04/27
- Washington County on 04/28
- Shenandoah County on 04/28
- Smyth County on 04/28

Local Emergency Operation Centers Open (2):

- **Halifax County on 04/27 (closed 04/29)**
- Washington County on 04/28
- Shenandoah County on 04/28

Local Shelters Open (1):

- Washington County: Emory & Henry Gymnasium; unknown number of occupants

##### Casualties

- 5 fatalities confirmed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- At least 50 injuries reported in Washington County
- 2 injuries reported in Shenandoah County
- 3 injuries reported in Smyth County
- 7 injuries reported in Halifax County

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#### Initial Damage Assessments (reported by localities)

- 427 structures reported damaged (55 destroyed, 77 major damage, 174 minor damage, 121 affected)
- Augusta, Frederick, Goochland, Halifax, Shenandoah , and Washington Counties

#### Power Outages

##### **Appalachian Power: 2,000 (-3,830)**

- **Washington – 2,000**
- APCo anticipates completing restoration to all impacted consumers by tomorrow.

#### Missions

- **Eleven (11) Active missions**
- Seven (7) Completed missions

#### ESF 1 – Transportation

- One (1) active mission – Trailer mounted generators (4) with extending lights deployed to Washington County.
- **26** secondary roads closed or blocked due to flooding
- I- 81 northbound and southbound at mile marker 29, I-81 northbound at mile marker 26, I-81 southbound at mile marker 32 on and off-ramps are restricted to emergency vehicles and local traffic only.
- **There will be closures on I-81 at the 29 to remove multiple debris containers at some point today.**
- Weight/width waiver issued

#### ESF 4 – Firefighting

- One (1)VDOF Incident Manager assisting at the Washington County EOC
- **All other VDOF resources have been demobilized**

#### ESF 5 – Emergency Management

- One (1) active mission – SW Mobile Command Post on scene in Washington County
- VERT Activated and VEOC is at Response Operations with additional staffing
- Regional Coordinator Stan Crigger, Willie Richardson; Area HAZMAT Officers Collins, Thurman, and Tolbert are in Washington County
- Limited exemption of hours worked for utility carriers transporting utility restoration equipment granted

#### ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services

- Monitoring WebEOC and prepared to respond if requested.

#### ESF 7 – Resource Management

- One (1) active mission in Washington County – Purchasing bulk food supplies for feeding operations

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#### ESF 8 – Health and Human Services

- VDH setting up a Mobile Vaccination Clinic in Washington County on 29 April to offer free tetanus vaccinations to first responders and residents. POD set up at Glad Spring Middle School directly across I-81 from the Tornado Response & Recovery Mobile Command Unit.
- OCME coordinating fatality management (as noted above)

#### ERF 9 – Search & Rescue

- **As of 1938 hours 29 April, Search and Rescue has been concluded. All teams demobilizing and clearing incident.**

#### ESF 10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response

- VDEM area HAZMAT Officers and members from the Bristol and Wise County Hazardous Materials Teams assisting with clean up operations in Washington County.

#### ESF 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Monitoring WebEOC for sheltering needs that might involve pet sheltering or other events that might necessitate action.
- Researched bulk food sourcing requirements and identified potential sources.

#### ESF 12 – Energy

APCo advised that the following two critical resources remain without power:

- **Power was restored 29 April for Washington County Sewage Treatment Plant**
- **Power was restored 29 April for Washington County Service Authority**

#### ESF 14 – Long Term Recovery

- Completed state damage assessment in Washington, Shenandoah, and Halifax Counties.

#### ESF 15 – External Affairs

- **External Affairs Chief Bob Spieldenner continues to support Washington County with public information outreach and media relations.**
- **VDEM Public Affairs staff continues to work in the JIC at the VEOC, posting information to the blog site at [www.vaemergency.com](http://www.vaemergency.com) and to social media sites, coordinating release of information with state agencies and the Governor's Press Office, preparing news releases and talking points, and handling media inquiries.**
- **Nearly 100 media inquiries handled to date.**
- **Today working on news release to announce Governor's request for federal assistance and media advisory to invite media to field visits by FEMA and VDEM tomorrow and Monday in Washington, Halifax and Gloucester.**

#### ESF 17 – Volunteer and Donations Management

- Volunteer Coordination team deployed to Washington County.
- Volunteer Coordination team deployed to Halifax County.
- Virginia Baptist Mission Board feeding unit deployed to Glade Spring (Washington County) to prepare first responders.
- American Red Cross is responding to multiple locations and providing food to the public at the Emory and Henry campus shelter.
- Four chain saw crews deployed to Shenandoah County.

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## Local Actions

- **Halifax County – Local American Red Cross and Department of Social Services opening disaster recovery center at Liberty Volunteer Fire Department.**

## Weather Conditions

Today, 30 April: Mostly sunny; high temperatures upper 60s to mid 70s; low temperatures low 40s to low 50s; winds 5 to 10 mph

Sunday, 1 May: Partly sunny becoming partly cloudy; 30% chance of afternoon/evening showers and thunderstorms across Western and Northern Virginia; high temperatures mid 70s to low 80s; low temperatures upper 40s to mid 50s; winds 5 to 10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph across Eastern Virginia

Monday, 2 May: Mostly cloudy; 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms; high temperatures low 70s to mid 80s; low temperatures mid 40s to upper 50s; winds 5 to 10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph across Eastern Virginia

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